

NIC 05665-84
2 October 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chairman, National Intelligence Council

FROM: Hal Ford
National Intelligence Officer At Large

SUBJECT: Conversations at CHB re Third World Instabilities

1. At my initiative, I talked today with [] and his assistant []. My purpose: to follow up the Off-Site Conference's emphasis on the need to perfect Intelligence Community estimates on Third World instabilities, to bring these judgments to consumers in more dynamic manner, and to tie together better such concerns on the part of intelligence and policymaking officers. Isham and I later met this morning with Eloise Page.

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2. Isham explained that he has a commission from the DCI to bring about some processing changes in these areas. To that end, he has been in touch with INR officers and is preparing a draft memo for Hugh Montgomery's signature. Hugh has not yet seen a draft but once he OKs it, the idea is that he will send such a memo to Armacost, asking Mike to institute a process of providing INR and the Intelligence Community a periodic list of countries of high level policy concern to State; Hugh's memo would also ask Armacost to chair periodic follow-up meetings (interagency) to discuss these lists and amplify policy guidelines. Isham gave me a copy of this rough draft (attached).

3. After explaining [] the NIE which we currently have under way on Third World instabilities, I told him that I believed that the Intelligence Community should consider keeping this list up to date by doing a brief quarterly M/H on the NIE. [] and I agreed informally this is a good idea, that it should indeed be chopped by NFIB, that in preparing these M/H's the Intelligence Community would benefit from receiving guidance from State such as that in the draft Montgomery memo to Armacost, that Defense (probably through Dick Stilwell) should provide a similar list, and that Armacost is an excellent bet to chair any kind of policy follow-up (possibly under NSC aegis).

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4. In our subsequent discussions with Eloise she said that she agreed with our line of thinking, but with one important caveat: any follow-up should clearly be done by State with Armacost in the chair, and with NSC participation limited to that of providing a member of the group -- the three of us agreeing that any such effort needed a seniority and status which is not to be found in the NSC Staff. Eloise explained that her office is under the gun to come up with specific DCI action papers as follow-ups to the Off-Site Conference, and that [] is to come up with one such piece for the DCI -- along the lines of the Conference's interest in a more dynamic and integrated system of handling the problem of sudden surprise in the Third World.

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5. I am to give [] some thoughts on his memo, and to test the waters here on the general scheme. He will subsequently prepare a broader proposal on the general subject, for Eloise, and then will submit it in draft to the DCI and the NFIB principals for their comment.

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Hal Ford

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